

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rubber composition based on ~~at least~~ a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said plasticizing system comprises (phr = parts by weight per hundred parts of elastomer):

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil; and

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

2. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 25 phr.

3. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 2, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ between 5 and 20 phr.

4. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polylimonene resin is ~~being~~ greater than 40°C.

5. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 4, wherein Tg is ~~being~~ greater than 50°C.

6. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5,~~ the number-average molecular weight (Mn) of the polylimonene resin is ~~being~~ between 400 and 2000 g/mol.

7. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 6, wherein Mn is ~~being~~ between 500 and 1000 g/mol.

8. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the amount of MES or TDAE oil is ~~being~~ between 10 and 30 phr.

9. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 8, wherein the amount of MES or TDAE oil is ~~being~~ between 10 and 25 phr.

10. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system is ~~being~~ between 15 and 45 phr.

11. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system is ~~being~~ between 20 and 40 phr.

12. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9,~~ the plasticizing system furthermore ~~comprising~~ comprises an unsaturated (C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

13. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1 ~~12~~, wherein the plasticizing system furthermore comprises an unsaturated (C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) fatty acid triester of glycerol which triester is being a glycerol trioleate.

14. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 13, wherein the glycerol trioleate ~~being~~ is present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

15. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein ~~any one of Claims 12 to 14~~, the amount of triester ~~being~~ is between 5 and 35 phr.

16. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein ~~any one of Claims 12 to 15~~, the amount of total plasticizing system ~~being~~ is between 20 and 70 phr.

17. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 16, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system ~~being~~ is between 30 and 60 phr.

18. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one of Claims 1 to 17~~, the diene elastomer is being selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

19. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein ~~any one~~  
~~of Claims 1 to 18,~~ the amount of reinforcing filler is ~~being~~ between 20 and 200 phr.

20. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 1 ~~19,~~ wherein the  
amount of reinforcing filler is ~~being~~ between 30 phr and 150 phr.

21. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claims 19 or 20, wherein  
the reinforcing filler ~~comprising~~ comprises majoritarily an inorganic filler in an amount of more  
than 50% by weight relative to the quantity of said reinforcing filler.

22. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 21, wherein the  
inorganic reinforcing filler ~~being~~ is silica.

23. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claims 19 or 20, wherein  
the reinforcing filler ~~comprising~~ comprises majoritarily an organic filler in an amount of more  
than 50% by weight relative to the quantity of said reinforcing filler.

24. (Currently amended)     A The composition according to Claim 23, wherein the  
reinforcing organic filler ~~being~~ is carbon black.

25. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a rubber composition having an improved resistance to abrasion and to cuts, this composition ~~being~~ based on a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system, said process comprising the following steps:

incorporating in a diene elastomer, during a first step referred to as "non-productive", at least a reinforcing filler and a plasticizing system, by thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between 110°C and 190°C is reached;

cooling the entire mixture to a temperature of less than 100°C;

then incorporating, during a second step referred to as "productive", the cross-linking system; and

kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature of less than 110°C is reached,

~~and being characterized in that~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises:

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil; and

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

26. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 25 phr.

27. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 26, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 20 phr.

28. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 27,~~ the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is greater than 40°C.

29. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 28,~~ the number-average molecular weight (Mn) of the polylimonene resin ~~is being~~ is between 400 and 2000 g/mol.

30. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 29,~~ the amount of MES or TDAE oil ~~is being~~ is between 10 and 30 phr.

31. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 30,~~ the amount of total plasticizing system ~~is being~~ is between 15 and 45 phr.

32. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 31,~~ the plasticizing system furthermore ~~comprising~~ comprises an unsaturated (C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

33. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 32, wherein the plasticizing system furthermore comprises unsaturated (C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) fatty acid trister of glycerol which is ~~trimester being~~ a glycerol trioleate.

34. (Currently amended)     A The process according to Claim 33, whereib the glycerol trioleate ~~being~~ is present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

35. (Currently amended)     A The process according to Claim 32 or 33, wherein ~~any one of Claims 32 to 34,~~ the amount of trimester is ~~being~~ between 5 and 35 phr.

36. (Currently amended)     A The process according to Claim 32, wherein ~~any one of Claims 32 to 35,~~ the amount of total plasticizing system is ~~being~~ between 20 and 70 phr.

37. (Currently amended)     A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 36,~~ the diene elastomer ~~being~~ is selected from among the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

38. (Currently amended)     A The process according to Claim 25, wherein ~~any one of Claims 25 to 37,~~ the amount of reinforcing filler is ~~being~~ between 20 and 200 phr.

39. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended)     A finished article intended for a suspension system of a motor vehicle, comprising a composition according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 24.~~

44. (Currently amended) A The finished article according to Claim 43, consisting of a tire.

45. (Currently amended) A winter tire comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 12 ~~any one of Claims 12 to 17~~.

46. (Currently amended) A semi-finished product intended for a suspension system of a motor vehicle, comprising a composition according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 24~~.

47. (Currently amended) A The semi-finished product according to Claim 46, consisting of a tire tread.

48. (Currently amended) A ~~tread for a~~ winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 12 ~~any one of Claims 12 to 17~~.

49. (Currently amended) A plasticizing system usable for the plasticizing of a diene rubber composition, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises an MES or TDAE oil and a polylimonene resin.

50. (Currently amended) A The plasticizing system according to Claim 49, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said plasticizing system furthermore comprises an unsaturated (C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>) fatty acid triester of glycerol.



51. (Currently amended)     A The plasticizing system according to Claim 50, wherein the triester ~~being~~ is a glycerol trioleate.

52. (Currently amended)     A The plasticizing system according to Claim 51, wherein the glycerol trioleate is ~~being~~ present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

53.     (Cancelled)

54.     (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 13.

55.     (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 14.

56.     (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 15.

57.     (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 16.

58.     (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 17.